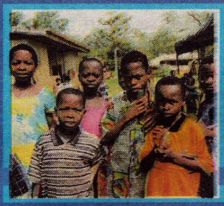
No 768 May 30, 2004

THE FUNDAY TIMES



Fairing better
Hilary Benn MP talks to us about Fairtrade and how it benefits the poor
Page 2

Holiday action
One winner will be off on a week-long PGL activity holiday in our competition
Page 8

Magic maker
Director Alfonso Cuarón talks to us about the latest Harry Potter film
Page 9

SCOOBY-DOO! in PSYCHIC FIEND NETWORK

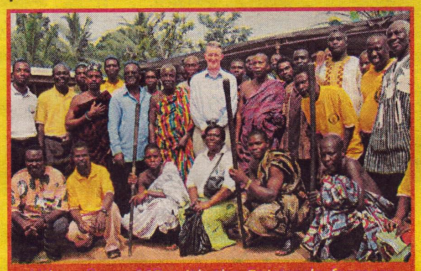
The story so far – TV psychic Madame Louisa claims she is being haunted by evil spirits, so Mystery Inc are on the case

Continues next week!

KEEPING IT FAIR

Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP, reports to Funday about his recent visit to Ghana and explains what Fairtrade is all about

Hilary, what is your job?
I'm responsible for Britain's overseas aid programme, which is the money we spend to help reduce poverty around the world. I work on a whole range of projects to do with reducing poverty, such as preventing child mortality and providing clean water, and I work with governments to support them in dealing with these problems themselves.


Hilary Benn MP with the Fairtrade farmers

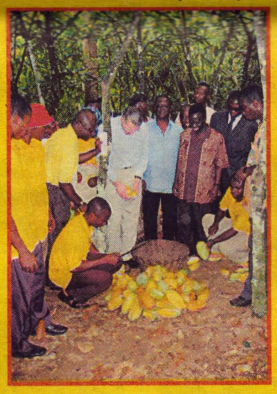
Did you need to learn a lot about the world when you got your job?
This experience has completely changed the way in which I see the world. I have learned that if we're going to do something about these problems, it's a range of things that have got to happen. It's not just about the amount of aid we give, although that's very important. For example, when the new government was elected in Kenya, it abolished school fees. We gave some money in aid, alongside other countries, to help them pay for that. As a result, there are over a million more kids in primary school now in Kenya. So, aid matters. Trade matters as well, however. Because if we can allow developing countries to trade in a fairer world trade system then they can earn their way out of poverty, which is what they want ... and Fairtrade links to that.

Why is Fairtrade needed?
It was started originally by a group of people who felt strongly that there was a way to ensure, through individual choice about what you buy, that you know the farmer at the other end is getting a fair price for what they've done. So it's a very simple and a very powerful idea. To begin with, it was just tea, coffee and chocolate, but now there are a much wider range of Fairtrade products available, such as bananas, orange juice and even Fairtrade footballs. It's popular because it's something we can all do, and it's not charity, it's just fair. People work hard and Fairtrade means they get paid reasonably for what they do and in return we get a good product.

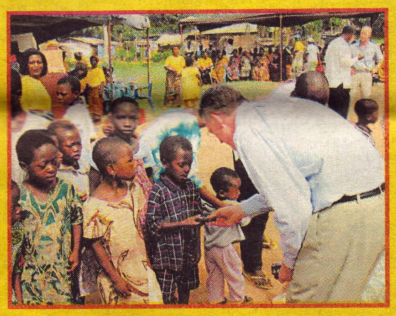
Tell us about your recent visit to Abobiri, in eastern Ghana.
I went to meet the farmers who are linked with the Day

Chocolate Company [maker of Dubble and Divine chocolate bars]. This is where the beans for that Fairtrade chocolate comes from.

What did the farmers show you?
I'd never seen a cocoa bean in my life, so it was very interesting. The pods are yellow or orange and they're harvested from the trees using a long bamboo pole with a hook knife at the end. These incredibly skilled farmers cut the pods open with three machete blows. I had a go, and they laughed uproariously at me. I was a bit tentative because I didn't want to chop my hand off! Inside, it looks like a lot of white beans with a gooey mush around them. The cocoa beans are white in their raw state, and they're flat like large butter beans. Next, they take the pith off, and then pack them in banana leaves to ferment for a couple of days. Then they are put on enormous drying trays – which takes seven to 14 days, depending on how much sun there is – and that is the product.

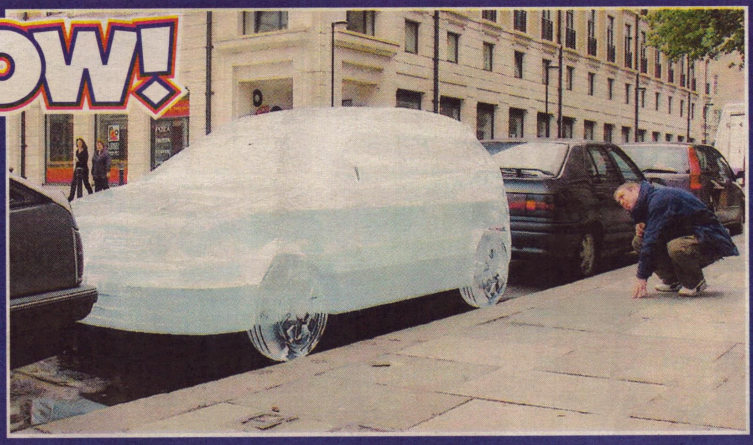


Did the farmers tell you how Fairtrade has helped them?
Yes, they have been a very successful cooperative because some of the money that comes back is used to provide community facilities within the village. This is a community in which people are clearly looking after each other. It has better facilities as a result of being part of the Fairtrade movement and the people are very proud of what they're doing.



To discover more about Fairtrade, click on www.fairtrade.org.uk and to read more about the Kuapa Kokoo farmers' organisation in Ghana, visit www.divinechocolate.com

WOW!



Ice parking! This cool car was craved out of an eight-tonne ice block and took 350 hours to make. The motor, parked outside the Saatchi Gallery in London, then melted in just 12 hours

THE FUNDAY TIMES

COMPETITIONS

Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk [only one e-mail per entrant please]
Competition deadline: June 9
Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under.

F-MAIL

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX or funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

NOT RECEIVED YOUR PRIZE?

Please telephone 020 7711 1521 or e-mail custserv@fundaytimes.co.uk

GOT A NEWS STORY?

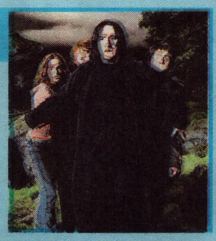
Please telephone 020 7782 7415 or e-mail funday.news@sunday-times.co.uk

COVER CARTOON: SOORIYOOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA

7 DAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD THIS WEEK

TODAY

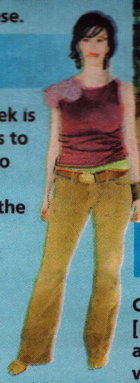


Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban gets its star-studded premiere at London's Odeon Leicester Square. This third film in the series opens at UK cinemas tomorrow. •The RAF Red Arrows display team take-off at the two-day Southend Airshow. It's Europe's largest free air show and more than 500,000 people are expected to look skyward. •The 12-day, 3,336km Round Britain and Ireland Challenge sets sail from Southampton.

MONDAY

Down's Syndrome Awareness Week begins. Around one baby in every 1,000 in the UK is born with this genetic condition. •The official England team Euro 2004 song, Alltogthernow, is released. •The Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll, at Brockworth, sees crazy competitors race after a big Double Gloucester. The first runner to get to the bottom of the hill wins the cheese.

TUESDAY



National Volunteers Week is aimed at encouraging us to give up our spare time to help others. More than 30,000 organisations in the UK are getting involved. •Vets taking part in Pet Smile Month will give animals a free dental check-up. Visit www.petsmile.org to arrange a visit. •Happy birthday to moody singer Alanis Morissette [right] – she's 30 today.

WEDNESDAY

The Olympic torch leaves the Panathinaiko Stadium, Greece, for a 78,000km global relay. It visits London on June 26 where torchbearers will include Sir Steve Redgrave. •A 41-gun salute at London's Green Park and a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London will mark the 51st anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

THURSDAY

Eoin Colfer's new novel The Supernaturalist is published today. •The European national pole climbing championships begin at the Royal Bath and West of England Show in Shepton Mallet. Entrants have to shin up a 24.5m-tall wooden pole as fast as they can. •The Art of the Garden exhibition opens at Tate Britain, in London, and shows how gardens have inspired artists such as John Constable and Lucian Freud.

FRIDAY

A sponsored bike ride sets off from Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, to Normandy, France, to mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings by Allied troops. •Gardening Scotland 2004 runs for three days in Edinburgh, featuring fantastic flora and a Scottish food pantry. •Well known faces from sci-fi films and TV shows will be appearing at the SFX: The Event show in London.

SATURDAY

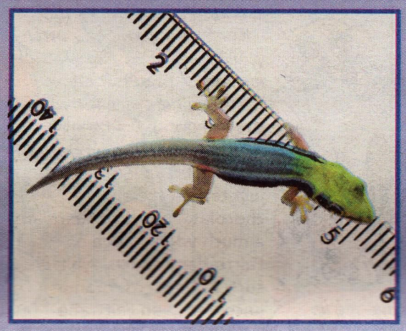
Chris Moon [right] begins a 25-day, 2,066km walk from John O'Groats to Land's End. Chris lost his lower right arm and leg in a landmine explosion and hopes to raise £1m for Leonard Cheshire, a charity that provides services for disabled people. •Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl heads the nominations at tonight's MTV Movie Awards. UK viewers can catch the show on June 12.

NEWS

HIGH LIFE

A group of six Britons and one Australian have held a dinner party . . 6,805m above sea level, close to the summit of Lhakpa Ri mountain in Tibet. The daredevil diners enjoyed a five-course dinner that included caviar, duck, chocolate pudding, cheese and a birthday cake. They were attempting to break the world record for the highest altitude formal dinner, which previously stood at 6,768m. The expedition has also raised more than £25,000 for the British Lung Foundation. Team leader Henry Shelford had the idea for the sky-high supper while recovering from a lung tissue disease. After the meal, Henry said: "Great party – shame about the atmosphere!"

WIZARD LIZARDS



This mini marvel is a yellow-headed day gecko, one of seven that was bred recently at Paignton Zoo. Females can lay up to six pairs of eggs each year with little lizards hatching after 50 to 55 days, measuring just 25mm. Native to Madagascar, the yellow-headed day gecko is so endangered that its exact location in the wild is kept secret. "This is one of the most beautiful geckos in the zoo and it proves that you don't have to be big to be beautiful!" said Rod Keen, head keeper of reptiles at the Devon zoo.

CRAWLY COUNT

Bugs may be a bother when they're buzzing around your head, but insects have many important roles. As well as pollinating crops and breaking down dead organic matter, they also provide vital food for birds. But the RSPB is worried that a drop in the numbers of insects is causing problems for our feathered friends – and so it has set up the first-ever Big Bug Count. Families across the UK are being asked to tot up the number of insects they find ... squashed on their car number plates! Visit www.rspb.org.uk/bugcount to find out more and download a special Splatometer to help you count the casualties.

VEG OUT

Ever been told to stop playing with your food? Thankfully, nobody has ever said that to the First Vienna Vegetable Orchestra. This band of nine musicians plays a range of weird instruments including celery bongos, aubergine cymbals and pumpkin drums. The instruments are made entirely from vegetables but kitchen utensils, such as knives and blenders, are also used. The organic orchestra are performing Green Tones on May 31 and June 1 in the Purcell Room at London's South Bank Centre.

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THE POWERPUFF GIRLS HELLIDAY

The story so far – The evil Him is planning to create his own day, so that Townsville folk will have to worship his greatness

Continues next week!

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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE MONTH

EXPLORE THE MONTH JUNE 04

FILM
Lindsay Lohan in Mean Girls plus the new Harry Potter film

TV FAVOURITES
Clips from Truckatoon, Toonami, Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards, CBeebies Story Maker

GAMES
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

PLUS
TEST YOUR FOOTIE KNOWLEDGE IN OUR EURO 2004 WORD SEARCH

The coolest stuff to spend your pocket money on

Find your FREE CD-Rom with today's Sunday Times Magazine

f-mail

TWIN TIME

Movie stars Mary-Kate and Ashley are making it big on the small screen. In smash sitcom So Little Time, the talented twins star as teenage sisters Chloe and Riley mixing high school with high jinks. Now So Little Time Volume 1: School's Cool is out to own on DVD and VHS [cert U] so you can join in the fun time and time again.

The star f-mailer will receive a So Little Time DVD from Warner Home Video, plus a DVD player and a set of So Little Time books from HarperCollins.

The other f-mailers will receive a copy of the DVD and a set of the books.

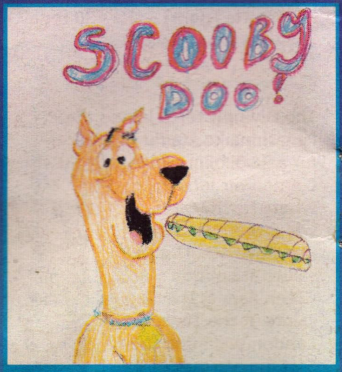
STAR

Dear f-mail,

I'm writing to tell you about Fairtrade chocolate. It's important that when we eat a bar of chocolate we know how it has been produced. Big companies don't pay a fair price for the cocoa beans and keep too much money from the chocolate bars they sell. Fairtrade is when farmers who grow cocoa beans gets paid more money. Fairtrade companies make sure they pay the farmers enough money to earn a living after covering all their costs. In my school, St Joseph's College, people can buy Fairtrade chocolate and other products from stalls every Friday. I feel that everyone can make a difference to the farmers who are being exploited.

Gayathri Bhaskaran, 12, Stoke

Good point, Gayathri. Now, read our Fairtrade feature on page 2.



Poppy Gold, 10, North Crawley

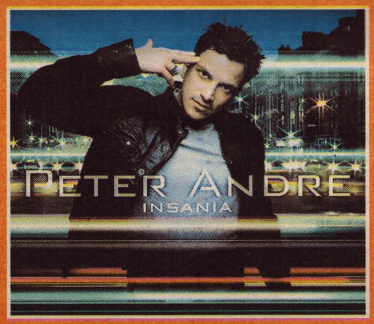
Got a point to make? Write to f-mail today!

MAD WORLD

Funday catches up with Peter Andre as he prepares to release his much-anticipated new single, Insania

Hi Pete, please can you tell us the story behind Insania? Did you write it during I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here! or beforehand?
I was already working on the lyrics and the melody before I went on the programme, but I finished it when I was in the jungle, simple as that.
Have you made up any other words?
I'm always making up words. I came up with one the other day that was really cool. I was ordering room service and I couldn't decide whether to have coffee or tea so I said: "I'll have a cofftea." They made me a mixture of the two drinks ... and it tasted horrible.
Were you surprised by the success of the re-release of Mysterious Girl?
I was shocked but really pleased. A lot of people bought it the first time around but I guess a lot of younger people hadn't heard it before.
After all these years, aren't you bored of singing that song?
I actually enjoy singing it now a million times more. I'm more relaxed and don't worry so much about how I look or if the sound is perfect. When I was younger I was always stressed about doing everything perfectly.
How has your life changed since I'm A Celebrity?
There's only one word for it ... Insania! It's corny but it's true. The song isn't about me saying: "Hey, my life is really crazy." It's all about technology and how it has advanced so much. But my life has gone crazy. A few months ago, I could walk into a shop and no-one would recognise me, but all of a sudden everyone wants to say hello and shake my hand. It's great.

What are you planning for your forthcoming tour?
I want it to be as live as possible. I want a really good band behind me. We'll be doing my music, as well as a few cover versions.
Do you plan to stay in England for good?
I've always dreamed of getting a home in the countryside. For now, I'm staying in England when I'm working on the music, then flying back to Cyprus. My brother and I run a gym out there.
What do you most miss about Australia?
The weather and my parents.
Do you think people take you seriously as a musician?
It doesn't bother me what people think. If they like my songs, then great. If they don't, I'm not worried. I've been making music since I was 16 and I'm 31 now, so I am used to criticism.



Who would you most like to do a duet with?
Lisa Stansfield, she's an amazing singer. And I'd love to work with the jazz musician George Benson on a really soulful, feel-good track.
Peter Andre's new single, Insania, is released tomorrow. "Do-do, do, do, do!"

Dear f-mail,
I was very annoyed when I watched the Eurovision Song Contest and found that each country awarded points to their neighbouring countries or oldest allies. They didn't seem to care about the quality of the actual songs at all! I think that the political voting has got quite out of hand. James Fox did really well to come 16th, but I can't help feeling sorry for Ireland and Norway, who came out of it with almost no points at all because of the way Europe has voted.
Sarah Bailey, via e-mail

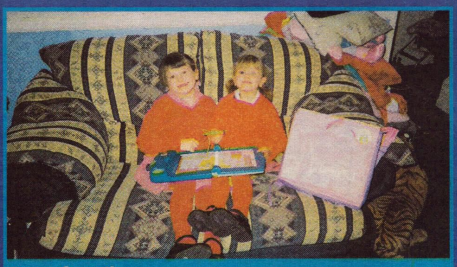
Eimear Bourke, 12, Navan, Ireland

Dear f-mail,
Here is my poem called Noises

Listen to the sound of the birds,
Sweetly singing in the trees
Listen to the wild wind,
Swaying branches in the breeze

Listen to the sound of the waves,
Crashing pebbles on the shore
Listen to the sound of the sand,
As people move more and more

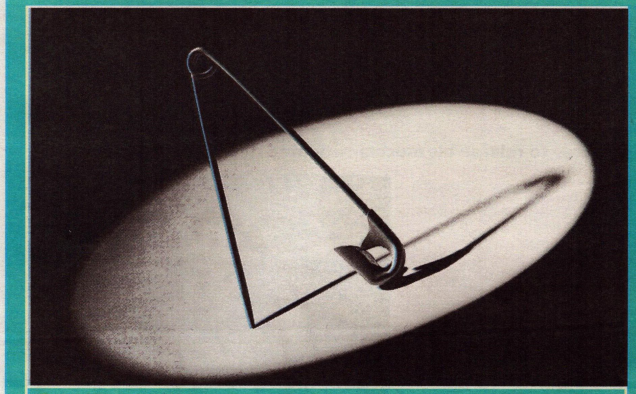
Listen to the sound of children,
Walking and running about
Listen to the sound of people,
Breathing in and out
Layla Parchizadeh, 10, Southampton



Dear f-mail,
I want to thank you for the LeapPad Learning System I won. It's brilliant. My grandad always robs it off me when he comes so I've hidden it away.
Amanda Fox, Sefton

EUREKA!

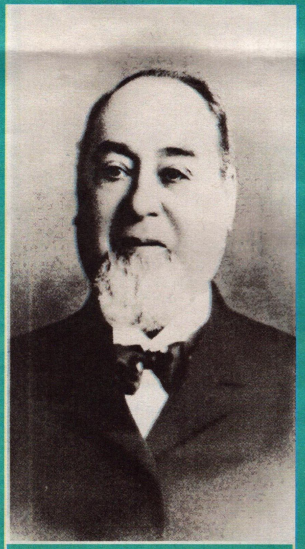
Nowadays, we take many of the amazing inventions around us for granted. But who came up with the bright ideas behind these everyday objects? Jason Page investigates



SAFETY PIN

Invented by Walter Hunt in 1849

New Yorker Walter Hunt came up with the idea for the safety pin while fiddling with a piece of wire, thinking about how he could repay a $15 [£9] debt. The clever thing about this pin is that the point fits into a clasp – which prevents it coming undone or sticking into anything. Walter invented many other things but never appreciated the worth of his brilliant ideas. He sold the patent for the safety pin for just $400 [£228]. Still, at least it was enough to pay off his debt!



BLUE DENIM JEANS

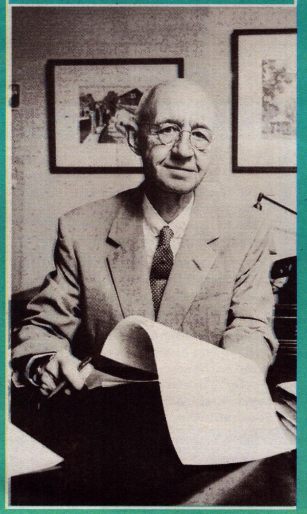
Invented by Levi Strauss in 1873

In 1873 Levi Strauss [shown] and his business partner, a tailor named Jacob Davis, sold the very first pair of blue jeans. They were made from a tough cotton fabric known as serge de Nimes [from which we get the word denim] and were held together with small metal rivets as well as the usual stitching. The tough, hard-wearing new trousers were an instant hit and Levi's factories have been making them ever since.

FROZEN FOOD

Invented by Clarence Birdseye in 1923

Clarence Birdseye didn't actually invent frozen food. People realised you could stop food going off by freezing it long ago. The trouble was, meat that had been frozen was very tough while thawed vegetables became mushy and tasteless. What Clarence did, was to invent a way to preserve the taste and texture of food by freezing it very quickly. As a result of his invention, frozen food became big business and many frozen products still bare the Birdseye name today.



SELLOTAPE

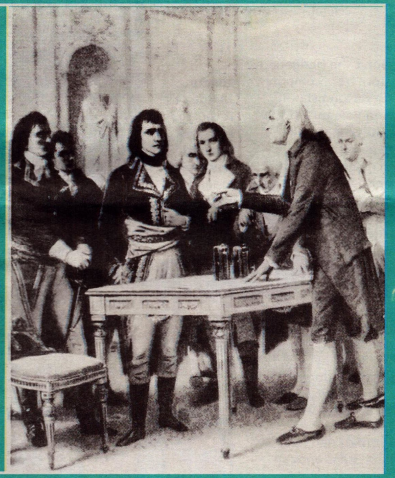
Invented by Colin Kininmonth and George Gray in 1937

Sellotape gets its name from Cellophane tape. In 1937, Colin Kininmonth and George Gray adapted a process that had been developed in France. They coated strips of Cellophane [which is made from cellulose – the substance that makes up the walls of plant cells] with a natural glue made from rubber. The result was the now world-famous sticky tape!

BATTERY

Invented by Alessandro Volta in 1800

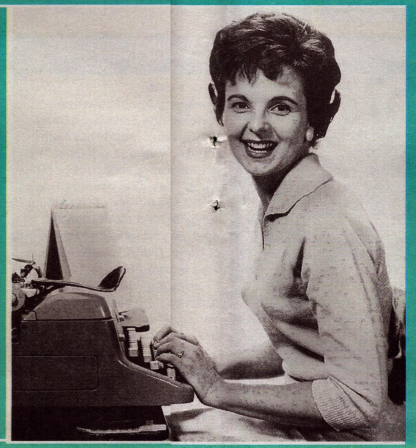
The first reliable battery, capable of generating electricity, was invented by the magnificently-named Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta. It was originally known as a voltaic pile and consisted of a stack of copper and zinc disks separated by layers of cardboard soaked in a salty liquid. The volt, which is the measure of electrical power, is named in Volta's honour.



LIQUID PAPER

Invented by Bette Graham in 1956

Bette Graham wanted to be an artist but she couldn't earn enough money selling her paintings so she got a job as a typist instead. However, she didn't throw her paints away. Instead she used them to mix up colours that matched the stationery she was using and painted over any spelling mistakes she made. Her boss never even noticed! Soon she was mixing up paint for lots of other typists and Bette started a company in Dallas to keep up with demand. Less than 15 years later, she sold her company for almost £30 million.



MICROWAVE OVEN

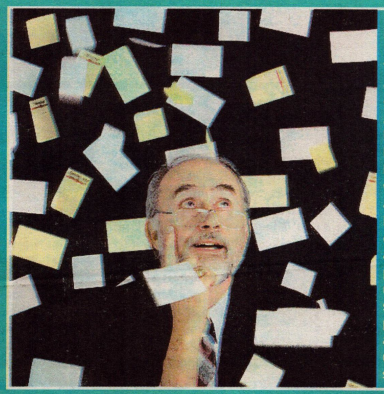
Invented by Percy Spencer in 1946

In 1946, Dr Percy Spencer was walking around his laboratory when he paused in front of a magnatron – a device that produces short wave radio signals. He instantly felt a strange sensation in his leg and noticed that the bar of chocolate in his pocket had melted. Dr Percy quickly realised that the radio waves [known as microwaves] were generating heat and within a year he had used this idea to build a microwave-powered oven. This picture shows one of the very first microwave ovens, on display at the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1947.

ANSWERING MACHINE

Invented by Willy Müller in 1935

The first device that could answer the telephone and take a message by itself was invented in 1935. Unfortunately, Willy Müller's answerphone was almost 1m-tall and took up a great deal of space. Other inventors came up with their own solutions – including this robot [demonstrated in 1964] which could pick the phone up, but unfortunately couldn't speak or take a message! It wasn't until 1971 that the first practical answering machine, which was manufactured by Casio Communications, went on sale to the public.



POST-IT NOTES

Invented by Art Fry in 1974

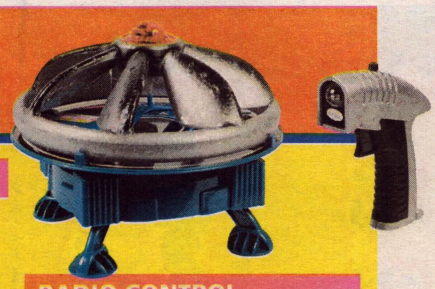
The idea for the Post-it Note came to Art Fry while he was singing in his church choir. Art kept losing his place in his hymn book and realised what he needed was a slip of paper he could stick to the pages. It was then that Art remembered a new type of glue he had heard about. It was sticky enough to attach to almost anything but could be easily peeled off without leaving any marks. It's this glue that is the secret to the Post-it Note's phenomenal success. The average office worker now uses 11 Post-it Notes every single day!

THE MONTH

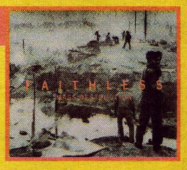
Put the disc in your computer and bring Funday to life ...

You'll find lots more information about inventors and their great inventions in the Kids section of The Month, which came with today's paper. Just pop the CD-Rom in to your PC and see if you can match up each inventor to the correct invention and then learn more about them.

FRESH! THIS WEEK



SINGLE

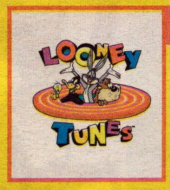


MASS DESTRUCTION
Faithless
Mass Destruction marks a musical departure for Faithless, better known for their uplifting anthemic dance music. This is an urban track with cleverly political rap lyrics and a funky backbeat. Interestingly, the album from which Mass Destruction is taken [called No Roots] was written by Rollo and Sister Bliss as a complete instrumental piece before they played it to Maxi, LSK and Dido so that they could add the vocals.

GAME

FRIDGEFOOTIE
Think your fridge is only useful for cooling drinks and snacks? Wrong, it's the place to play Fridgefootie – thanks to its magnetic pitch, players and dial. The game is easy to pick up and while it's not as fast and furious as the real thing, it has its own appeal. Priced £9.95, from Borders, Virgin and John Lewis.

ON THE BOX



LOONEY WEEK
Boomerang
It's half-term mayhem on Boomerang with those loopy Looney Tunes all set to give you the giggles. Starting tomorrow until Friday, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig and co will be entertaining you with their comic capers from 6am, with a special daily feature films at 10am and 5pm. Join in the madness!

RADIO CONTROL

AMAZING FLYING UFO
The thought of having our own hovering alien ship really caused a stir at Funday so this Amazing Flying UFO [£19.99] from Maplin Electronics had a lot to live up to. Unfortunately, it didn't match expectations as its power lasted only minutes. Not much sign of life on this UFO. A disappointment, so give it space!

WEBSITE

HOLLYWOODTOWERHOTEL.COM
The official website for Disney's new Twilight Zone Tower of Terror thrill drop ride in California has enough to make a visit worthwhile, even if you're not planning a trip to the theme park. The on-line game tells the story of the haunted hotel, and the characters from the tale jump out onto your desktop [PC only]. In the webisodes that follow, users can return the characters to the hotel and even print a queue-jump Fastpass ticket.

PLAYSTATION 2

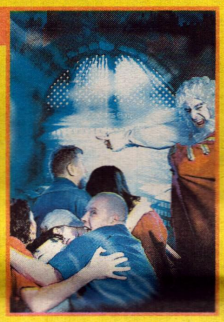
TRANSFORMERS
These 1980s robot heroes arrive on the PS2 in a top third-person shooter. Despite controlling one of three hulking Autobots [Optimus Prime, Hot Shot or Red Alert] it's easy and smooth moving them around. Plus, the environments are pretty spectacular as you stomp around fighting the Decepticons. What a transformation!

DVD

SONIC UNDERGROUND VOLUME 1 [cert U]
Sonic the Hedgehog goes from computer to cartoon star in Sonic Underground Volume 1 [£5.99]. Characters from the blue streak's computer realm appear, such as Manic, Sonia and nemesis Robotnik, but in this four-episode DVD he's more cute than cool. Although hardly super Sonic, it's diverting toon fun for younger kids.

DAY OUT

TRAITOR! BOAT RIDE TO HELL
London Dungeon's revamped, renamed boat ride has been extended. With its screams in the dark and the torture victims of the Traitor Gate jumping out – it's dead-good fun. If you've experienced it before, you'd be hard pressed to notice what has changed but as part of the gory dungeon experience, it's an atmospheric thrill.



SINGLE

HEAVEN & EARTH Pop!
This group appear to have all the ingredients for a classic bubblegum pop act, although the song could be a lot stronger. It's a little too shrieky and the astronomical key in which it's written makes it too high for most people to sing along to. Heaven & Earth sounds dangerously too Scooch and not Steps enough; let's hope Pop! have got something a lot more catchy to follow this up with.

FOOTIE FASHION

ENGLAND CAP & HANDBAG
Woolworths is right behind Sven's boys with its England T-shirts, flags, hats and bags. Two of the Three Lions goodies that catch the eye are this St George's cap [£3.99] and, for style-conscious girls, the cool retro England handbag [£14.99]. Top tackle! Available at Big W and Woolworths stores, for stockists call 01706 862789.

GOOD | OK | BAD

PICTURE ©DISNEY ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

WIN IT!

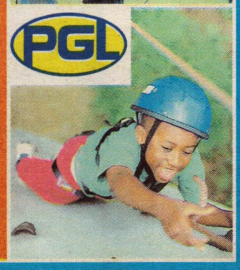
GOOD SPORTS

Fancy adding a bit of action to your summer break? On a PGL multi-activity holiday you can experience an exciting range of sports and activities – and there's no parent or guardian looking over your shoulder.
How about archery and abseiling in the morning and then raft building, golf and motorsports after lunch? Every day is crammed full of adventure – and totally different from the one before!
Thanks to PGL, one Funday reader plus a friend* will win an amazing week-long multi-activity holiday at the PGL UK centre of their choice. The prize includes full-board accommodation and all activities.
There are 17 centres in the UK and France and up to 60 different activities to experience. For a colour brochure, freecall 0500 749147 or visit www.pgl.co.uk

To enter, tell us with which of the activities mentioned is associated with Vijay Singh and Ernie Els.

Mark your entry PGL and send it with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to the competition address on page 2.
* Please note the winner and friend must be aged between 7 and 16

PGL



Don't miss out on our fabulous competitions ... enter today!

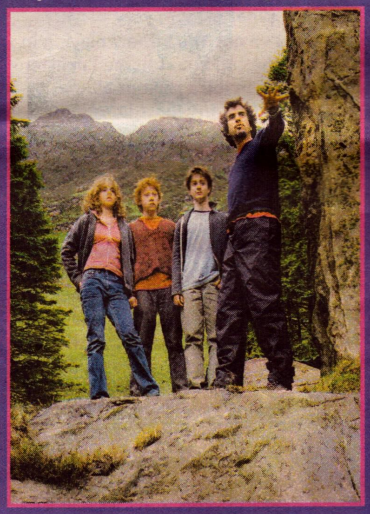
MEXICAN MAGIC

Funday meets the Mexican director of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Alfonso Cuarón

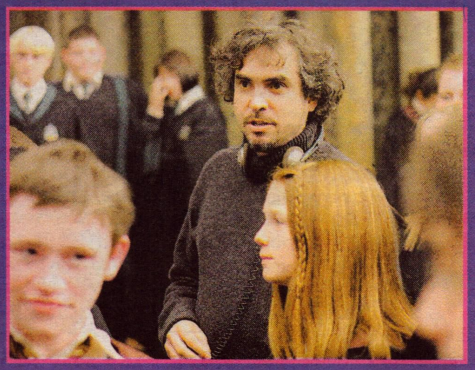
What is it like directing a Harry Potter film, knowing it will be so huge?
Actually, it's the best thing that every happened to me. One part of me was the snob saying I have to do my own movies. But by surrendering your ego to the material, it's amazing how creatively everything starts to explode. I just felt so free. The best part was getting involved with the Harry Potter machinery that was already so well oiled. The producers have the experience of the first two movies. I would go in not having to look for locations, look for the cast, look for finance. It's fun, all the toys!

How did you set about changing things?
I was creating a film that was organic, using what had happened before but with my own little bit of spice in it. What is great about this process is that there's an evolution between film one and film two, from two to three, and hopefully from my one to number four – but also keeping it in the same universe. A perfect example is the uniform. I'm sure no-one will notice that from two to three the uniforms change because we are respecting that Gryffindor is red and gold and Slytherin is green. But the colours are more subdued and the grey of the uniform is darker.

What was the worst thing about making this film?
That it's so long. Sometimes it's about endurance, not film-making. The steps in this movie are such baby steps. I'm used to sometimes shooting seven pages of script a day, here we shoot just one shot that would last a second because of the visual effects. How the pieces come together is very slow. You work very long hours with no rest days.



Why won't you be directing the fourth movie, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire?
There was a conversation about that, but it would have been crazy for me to do it. I don't know how Chris Columbus jumped from one to two. I couldn't ... too much work in post production and to have a good shoot you need a lot of pre-production because everything is so abstract. We were shooting on the Black Lake set and it was Harry Potter with Sirius Black being attacked by the Dementors. You just have Gary Oldman and Daniel Radcliffe reacting "Arrggh" to nothing. It's easy to direct those things once you have done pre-production in which you have planned each camera angle, together with the storyboard, knowing where the Dementors are going to be and having clear ideas of what the Dementors look like. Otherwise you are arriving there without this knowledge, trying to tell the actors how to react to nothing. It would be very tough, I think.



What about working with the young stars?
I received them at the best moment. They have happened to have done two big movies before and know the technical aspects of the process ... and they were 13. At that age, they start taking themselves seriously as actors and they wanted to improve their craft and explore the emotional aspect of acting. So it was fantastic. They went for it! Daniel Radcliffe has such an amazing visual imagination.

What do you thing the book was about?
For me, it's very clear. It's about a child trying to find his identity as a teenager. Thirteen is a difficult age and in this, it's Harry coming to terms with that. He has to learn to accept different parts of himself. And to ultimately, discover his father's energy within him.

What can you tell us about the Dementors.
Conceptually, that was the most challenging thing. You read the descriptions in the book – these black, cloaked figures – and then you see Lord of the Rings which had the ultimate black, cloaked figures. How are we going to top that? The answer came when I was watching Lord of the Rings and they are fighting a bunch of these guys. They have physical strength. That was the difference. The Dementors are a representation of depression or the darkness of the soul. They have to be more spirit-like. My first idea was to bring Basil Twist, who is an amazing puppeteer based in San Francisco. He does puppeteering underwater with these beautiful floating fabrics. So we brought Basil here and we did several days where we were filming this motion, slowly and backwards, so everything had this weird movement. We were very happy until we realised that, with the amount of shots we needed, it would be impossible. So we sent all these tests to special effects company Industrial Light and Magic and they replicated the motion in CGI. The process was very interesting. They are going to be spooky but there's a beauty in this spookiness.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban [cert PG] is out tomorrow

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MUTANT MAYHEM

Xposing the Truth [cert U], the fourth and final DVD in the X-Men Evolution Season 1 set, is out to buy on Monday. In these classic episodes, Nightcrawler risks his life to discover the truth about his past and Magneto returns, attempting to take over the world with a mutant army. The DVD also includes introductions to each episode and an X-Men Unmasked featurette.

To celebrate the release of this action-packed DVD, Warner Home Video is offering one lucky Funday reader some high-tech hardware. Our winner will be the proud owner of a Philips LCD TV, a DVD player and a digital box. Also included in the prize is the complete X-Men DVD collection – Xposing the Truth, UnXpected Changes, Xplosive Days and X Marks the Spot. X-cellent!

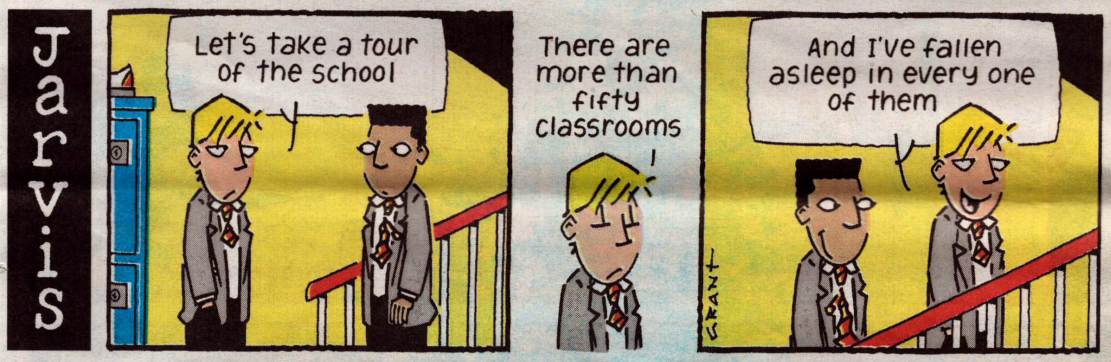
Plus, five runners-up will each receive the four DVDs.

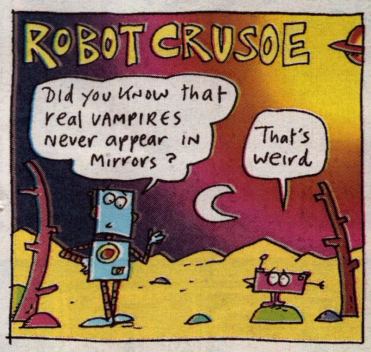
To enter, tell us which member of the X-Men has razor-sharp, retractable claws hidden in his hands

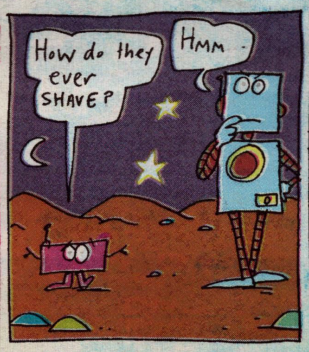
Mark your entry X-MEN and send it, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to the competition address on page 2.

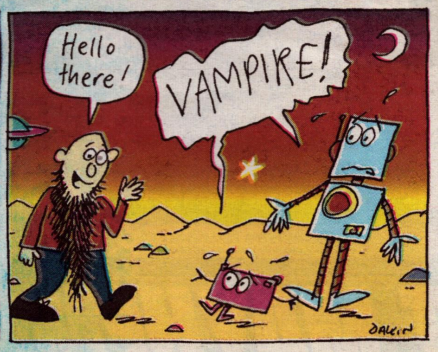
Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

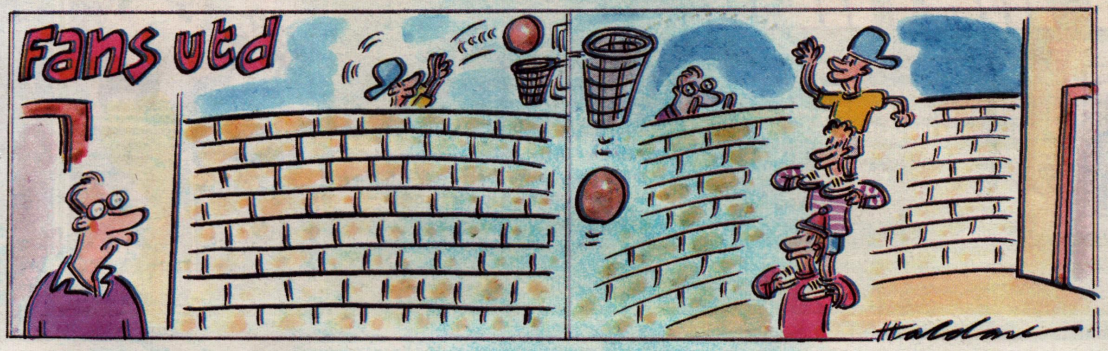
Look out for our Harry Potter special next week!











QF QUICKFIRE

VERNON KAY

How tidy was your room when you left this morning?

It was very tidy. My life's so hectic that everything's got to be in the right place. I'm not messy at all.

What CD is in your player?

I've got The Streets playing in the car, but at home I'm listening to an Ibiza chillout album.

Who's the most intriguing celebrity you have ever met?

Actor Willem Dafoe [from Spider-Man]. He was really chatty, and open. An interview is good when it feels like you're chatting to a mate. That's what this was like.

What's your secret geeky thing?

I fly radio-controlled planes. It's horrible when you crash one. I've done it loads, but thankfully not to my favourite blue plane.

What have you been putting off doing recently that you ought to get on with?

I hate doing paperwork – all the inane letters that you get sent like receipts and bills.

When are you happiest?

When I wake up in the morning. I'm not a morning person but I like waking up next to my wife [Vernon is married to Tess Daly].

What's your motto for life?

We're here for a good time, not a long time. Keith Duffy [from Coronation Street] told me that.

Vernon is presenting T4's Pop Beach live from Great Yarmouth on Sunday, June 6. Performers include Ash, Lemar, Big Brovaz, McFly, Jamelia, Speedway, Blazin' Squad, Supergrass, Emma Bunton, Goldfrapp, Natasha Bedingfield and Peter Andre. Tickets [£12.50] are available from Ticketmaster on 0871 230 2644

ADVANCE FEATURES

Good Quickfire answers, Vernon!

Story: Andrew Osborne/Bill Morrison Art: James Lloyd/Mike Rote

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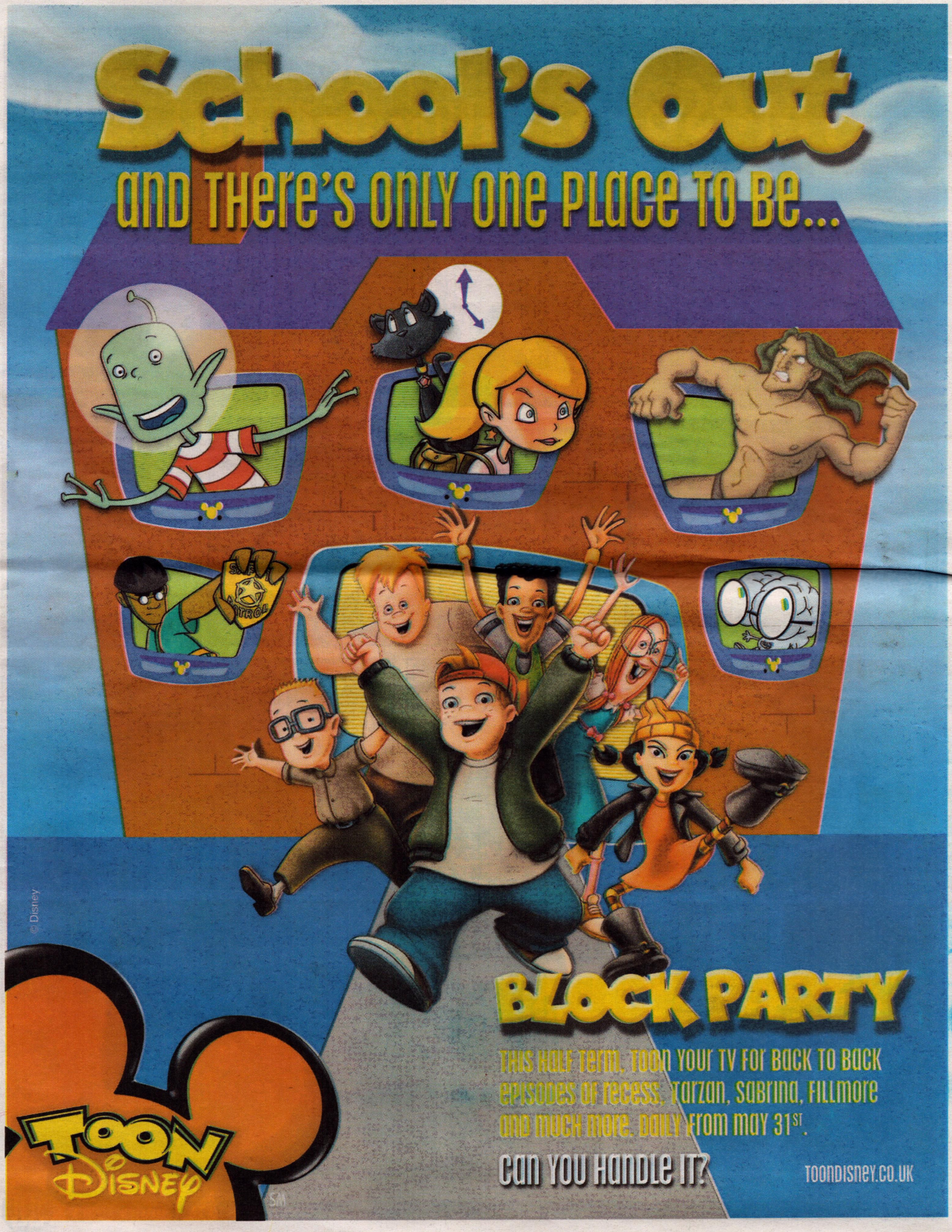
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BLOCK PARTY
This half term, toon your TV for back to back episodes of Recess, Tarzan, Sabrina, Fillmore and much more. Daily from May 31st.
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